



PATENT

Applicant: Steven D. Clark Confirmation No.: 8607
Serial No: 10/625,352
Filing Date: July 23, 2003
Art Unit: 1722
Examiner: Joseph S. Del Sole
Title: **LINEAR FLOW EQUALIZER FOR UNIFORM POLYMER
DISTRIBUTION IN A SPIN PACK OF A MELTSPINNING
APPARATUS**
Atty Docket: NOR-1119

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Date: January 5, 2006

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

DECLARATION UNDER RULE 131

I, Steven D. Clark (the inventor), being duly cautioned and sworn, submit this Declaration in response to the Office Action dated September 19, 2005, and state:

That I am the inventor of the invention entitled "Linear Flow Equalizer for Uniform Polymer Distribution in a Spin Pack of a Meltspinning Apparatus" described and claimed in the application for Letters Patent of the United States, Serial No. 10/625,352, filed July 23, 2003 ('352 application);

That this is a Declaration under the provisions of Rule 131 and the rules of practice for the United States Patent Office in support of said '352 application;

That prior to December 31, 2002, the filing date of U.S. Patent Publication Number 2004/0126454 in the name of Haynes et al., the invention described and claimed in the present application was reduced to practice in the United States of America;

That, as evidence of the reduction to practice of the invention described and

claimed in the '352 application, attached and incorporated into this Declaration are copies of original written records made by the undersigned inventor, bearing dates prior to December 31, 2002, but with said dates masked;

That the attached Exhibit includes engineering drawings of an apparatus for distributing thermoplastic material supplied from a plurality of liquid inlets in a cross-machine direction of a meltspinning apparatus that clearly demonstrate that such apparatus embodying the elements claimed in claims 1-24 of the '352 application, were reduced to practice by the undersigned inventor before December 31, 2002;

That the reduction to practice of the invention claimed in pending claims 1-24 of the '352 application is fully supported by the attached Exhibit, all acts having been performed in the United States of America before December 31, 2002, but with said dates now masked;

That the Exhibit demonstrates as follows:

That an apparatus for distributing thermoplastic material supplied from a plurality of liquid inlets in a cross-machine direction of a meltspinning apparatus was conceived of, made, and tested, and thus reduced to practice, before December 31, 2002;

That the apparatus, in one embodiment, included a first linear flow equalizer including a first plurality of flow passageways of substantially equal path length that extend in the cross-machine direction and in a downstream direction non-aligned with the cross-machine direction, said first plurality of flow passageways operating to divide a flow of a first thermoplastic material supplied from the plurality of liquid inlets into individual streams having a spaced relationship in the cross-machine direction; and a member disposed in the downstream direction from said first linear flow equalizer, said member having a surface oriented in the

cross-machine direction and positioned relative to said first plurality of flow passageways for merging the individual streams exiting from said first plurality of flow passageways to form a sheet of the first thermoplastic material;

That the apparatus, in one embodiment, included an inlet plate having a plurality of flow passageways for the thermoplastic material, the flow passageways being spaced substantially equidistantly from each other in the cross-machine direction; a first equalizer plate positioned in a downstream direction from said inlet plate and having a first plurality of elongated slots each centered about one of said plurality of flow passageways, each of said first plurality of elongated slots receiving a flow of the thermoplastic material from one of the flow passageways, and each of said first plurality of elongate slots extending in the cross-machine direction and including opposed closed ends substantially equidistant from one of said plurality of liquid passageways; a second equalizer plate positioned in the downstream direction from said first equalizer plate, said second equalizer plate having a first plurality of throughholes each substantially registered in alignment with one of said opposed closed ends of a corresponding one of said first plurality of elongated slots, each of said first plurality of throughholes receiving a flow of the thermoplastic material from one of said first plurality of slots, and said first and second equalizer plates cooperating to divide the flow of the thermoplastic material supplied from the plurality of flow passageways into individual streams having a spaced relationship in the cross-machine direction; and a member disposed in the downstream direction from said second equalizer plate, said member having a first surface oriented in the cross-machine direction and positioned for merging the individual streams exiting from said first plurality of throughholes to form a sheet of the first thermoplastic material.

Therefore, in summary, the attached Exhibit discloses and supports the reduction to practice of the apparatus for distributing thermoplastic material supplied from a plurality of liquid inlets in a cross-machine direction of a meltspinning apparatus that is the subject of and is claimed in Application Serial No. 10/625,352, all the acts of which occurred in the United States of America BEFORE December 31, 2002, and thus precede the effective filing date of U.S. Patent Publication Number 2004/0126454.

Further affiant saith naught.

By  Steven D. Clark

Date 1/5/2006

STATE OF GEORGIA)
COUNTY OF Dawson)

Sworn to and subscribed in my presence this 5th day of January,
2006.

(SEAL)

Judith A. Knappel
Notary Public

EXHIBIT

ITEMS NOT IN CONTRACT FURNISHED BY CUSTOMER,
DRAWING IN RESELL AND REUSE IS THE PROPERTY OF WEDGWOOD CORPORATION AND MUST BE USED IN
CONNECTION WITH THE CONTRACT.

100% MATERIAL 17-4 CR 15-5 PH SST
200% BURR SHARPS

Technical drawing showing a structural section with the following dimensions:

- Top horizontal line: 10700
- Second horizontal line: 5000
- Third horizontal line: 2800
- Fourth horizontal line: 5000
- Bottom horizontal line: 5000
- Left vertical line: 5350
- Right vertical line: 5350
- Width of the section: 2500
- Radius R: 105
- Angle: 30°
- Top left corner dimensions: (100), (500)
- Bottom right corner dimension: 125

250 THRU
1 @ 500.10 F
POSITIVE SIDE

A vertical line with horizontal markers and labels A and C.

Labels from top to bottom:

- 224782
- 209888
- 204994
- 170207
- 150419
- 115632
- 95845
- 61057

Marker labels:

- 51163
- 1214888
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259569

C

SECTION A-A
SCALE 2:1

378613

87987 423924 423925
106393 368719 368720
314144 314145 314146
275797 275798 275799

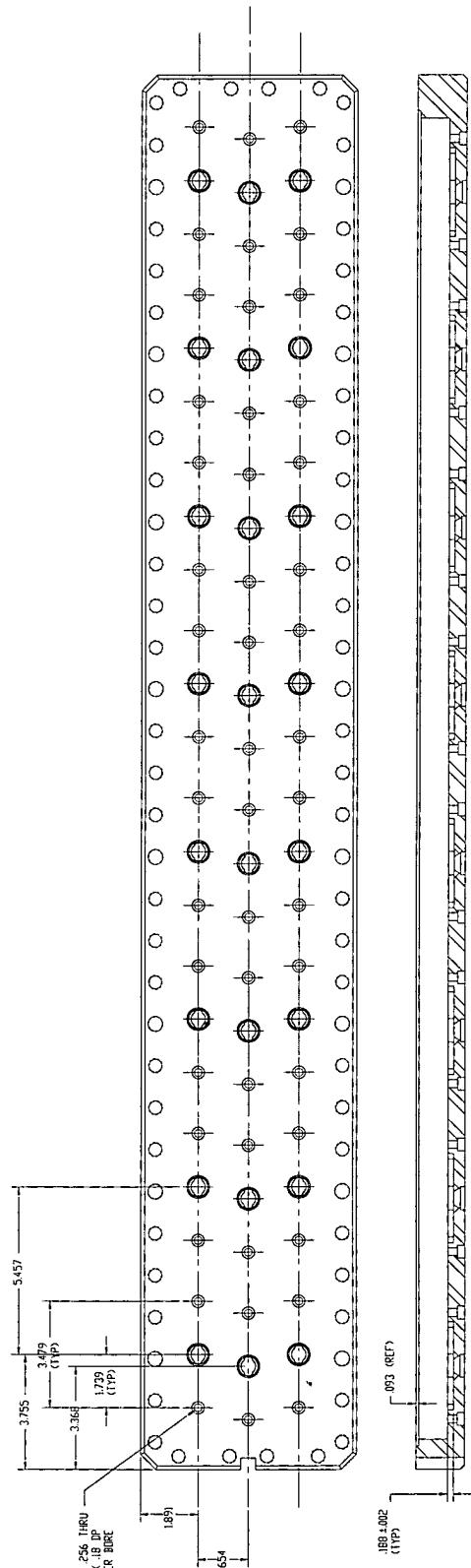
R.25

63/ 63/ C

Nordson Corporation
Fiber Systems
12 Nordson Drive
Bentonville, Georgia 3055
(404) 216-1520 Fax 2100

PLATE, 10

Nordson		PARTIAL DIST. - SHEET		DO NOT SCALE USE DIME	
		FRAC.	FRACTIONAL	IN.	MM.
1	1/16	1/16	1.588	40	12
2	1/8	1/8	3.175	80	32
3	3/16	3/16	4.763	120	48
4	1/4	1/4	6.350	160	64
5	5/16	5/16	7.938	200	80
6	3/8	3/8	9.526	240	96
7	7/16	7/16	11.114	280	112
8	1/2	1/2	12.700	320	128
9	9/16	9/16	14.288	360	144
10	5/8	5/8	15.875	400	160
11	11/16	11/16	17.463	440	176
12	3/4	3/4	19.050	480	192
13	13/16	13/16	20.638	520	208
14	7/8	7/8	22.226	560	224
15	15/16	15/16	23.814	600	240
16	1	1	25.400	640	256
17	17/16	17/16	26.988	680	272
18	9/10	9/10	28.575	720	288
19	19/20	19/20	30.163	760	304
20	19/20	19/20	31.750	800	320
21	19/20	19/20	33.338	840	336
22	19/20	19/20	34.926	880	352
23	19/20	19/20	36.514	920	368
24	19/20	19/20	38.100	960	384
25	19/20	19/20	39.688	1000	400
26	19/20	19/20	41.275	1040	416
27	19/20	19/20	42.863	1080	432
28	19/20	19/20	44.450	1120	448
29	19/20	19/20	46.038	1160	464
30	19/20	19/20	47.626	1200	480
31	19/20	19/20	49.214	1240	496
32	19/20	19/20	50.800	1280	512
33	19/20	19/20	52.388	1320	528
34	19/20	19/20	53.975	1360	544
35	19/20	19/20	55.563	1400	560
36	19/20	19/20	57.150	1440	576
37	19/20	19/20	58.738	1480	592
38	19/20	19/20	60.326	1520	608
39	19/20	19/20	61.914	1560	624
40	19/20	19/20	63.500	1600	640
41	19/20	19/20	65.088	1640	656
42	19/20	19/20	66.675	1680	672
43	19/20	19/20	68.263	1720	688
44	19/20	19/20	69.850	1760	704
45	19/20	19/20	71.438	1800	720
46	19/20	19/20	73.026	1840	736
47	19/20	19/20	74.614	1880	752
48	19/20	19/20	76.200	1920	768
49	19/20	19/20	77.788	1960	784
50	19/20	19/20	79.375	2000	800
51	19/20	19/20	80.963	2040	816
52	19/20	19/20	82.550	2080	832
53	19/20	19/20	84.138	2120	848
54	19/20	19/20	85.726	2160	864
55	19/20	19/20	87.314	2200	880
56	19/20	19/20	88.900	2240	896
57	19/20	19/20	90.488	2280	912
58	19/20	19/20	92.075	2320	928
59	19/20	19/20	93.663	2360	944
60	19/20	19/20	95.250	2400	960
61	19/20	19/20	96.838	2440	976
62	19/20	19/20	98.426	2480	992
63	19/20	19/20	100.014	2520	1008
64	19/20	19/20	101.600	2560	1024
65	19/20	19/20	103.188	2600	1040
66	19/20	19/20	104.775	2640	1056
67	19/20	19/20	106.363	2680	1072
68	19/20	19/20	107.950	2720	1088
69	19/20	19/20	109.538	2760	1104
70	19/20	19/20	111.126	2800	1120
71	19/20	19/20	112.714	2840	1136
72	19/20	19/20	114.300	2880	1152
73	19/20	19/20	115.888	2920	1168
74	19/20	19/20	117.475	2960	1184
75	19/20	19/20	119.063	3000	1200
76	19/20	19/20	120.650	3040	1216
77	19/20	19/20	122.238	3080	1232
78	19/20	19/20	123.826	3120	1248
79	19/20	19/20	125.414	3160	1264
80	19/20	19/20	126.999	3200	1280
81	19/20	19/20	128.588	3240	1296
82	19/20	19/20	130.175	3280	1312
83	19/20	19/20	131.763	3320	1328
84	19/20	19/20	133.350	3360	1344
85	19/20	19/20	134.938	3400	1360
86	19/20	19/20	136.526	3440	1376
87	19/20	19/20	138.114	3480	1392
88	19/20	19/20	139.699	3520	1408
89	19/20	19/20	141.288	3560	1424
90	19/20	19/20	142.875	3600	1440
91	19/20	19/20	144.463	3640	1456
92	19/20	19/20	146.050	3680	1472
93	19/20	19/20	147.638	3720	1488
94	19/20	19/20	149.226	3760	1504
95	19/20	19/20	150.814	3800	1520
96	19/20	19/20	152.399	3840	1536
97	19/20	19/20	153.988	3880	1552
98	19/20	19/20	155.575	3920	1568
99	19/20	19/20	157.163	3960	1584
100	19/20	19/20	158.750	4000	1600



SECTION B-R

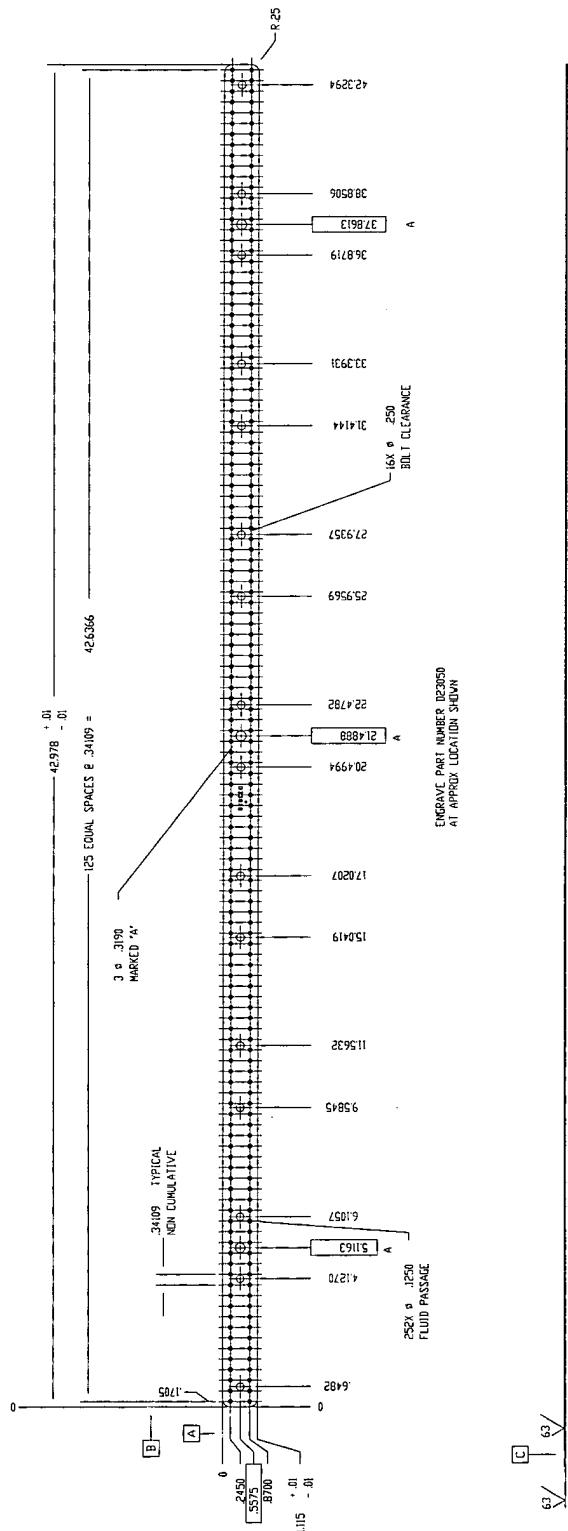
A-A

NOTES

1. MATERIAL EXISTING HILLS SPINDON SPARKS INPUT PLATE.
2. MACHINE FINISH FOR ALL NEW FEATURES.
3. ALL DIMENSIONS IN THIS DRAWING ARE ONLY RELATED TO THE FEATURES THAT NEED TO BE MODIFIED.
4. GENERALLY ALL NEW FEATURES GENERATED SHOULD BE SYMMETRICAL TO EXISTING RELATED FEATURES.

Nordson

NOTES
1) MATERIAL: .0312 +/- .005 THICK 17-4 SST (15-5 OPTIONAL)
2) DEBUR SHARPS



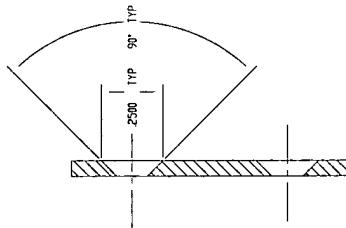
ENGRAVE PART NUMBER D23050
AT APPROX LOCATION SHOWN

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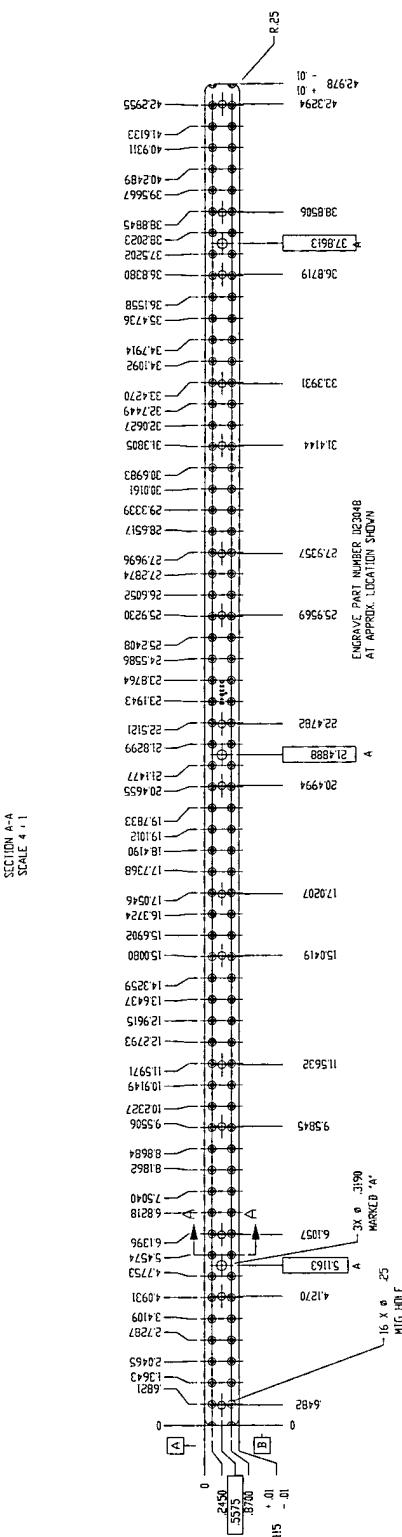
1) MATERIAL: .0625 +/- .005 THICK 17-4 SST (15-5 OPTIONAL)
2) DEBURR SHARPS

534-6672
202-26-1557
D23049
ITEM#110

Nordson.



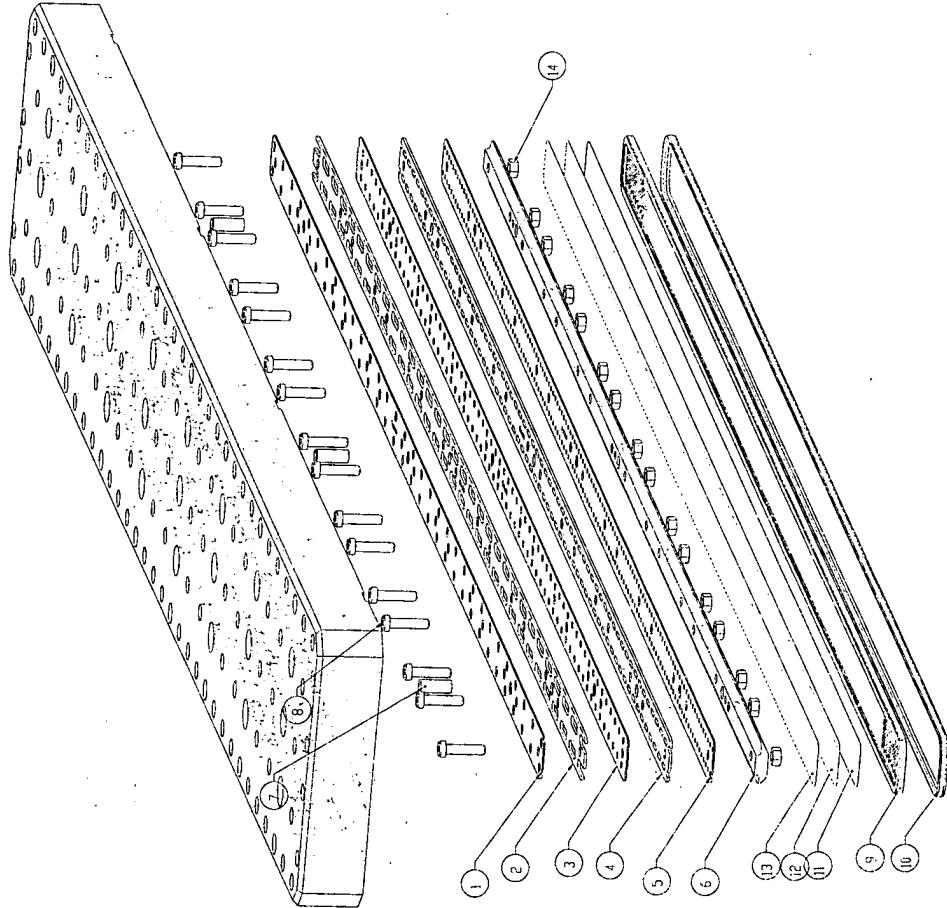
NOTES
1) MATERIAL: 6063 +/- .005 THICK 17-4 SST (15-5 OPTIONAL)
2) REINFOR SHARPS



Nordson	
Nordson Corporation 2000 31st Street Bentonville, Arkansas 72712 Phone: (479) 272-241111	
PLATE DIST - LEVEL	
FLUID COOLER 12 H	
DO NOT SCALE USE DIMENSIONS ONLY	
Sheet 1 of 1	D23048

Nordson	
Nordson Corporation 2000 31st Street Bentonville, Arkansas 72712 Phone: (479) 272-241111	
PLATE DIST - LEVEL	
FLUID COOLER 12 H	
DO NOT SCALE USE DIMENSIONS ONLY	
Sheet 1 of 1	D23048

ITEM NO.	QTY	PART NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	1	D23046	PLATE, DISI - LEVEL 3
2	1	D23047	PLATE, DISI - LEVEL 4
3	1	D23048	PLATE, DISI - LEVEL 5
4	1	D23049	PLATE, DISI - LEVEL 6
5	1	D23050	PLATE, DISI - LEVEL 7
6	1	D23051	PLATE, DISI - SHEET FORMING
7	3	NOVEL PIN	PIN, NOVEL BMM 20MM PULL BOLT
8	16	157042	SCREW, SHCS M6X 1 X 25MM LP
9	1	C23042	PLATE, BREAKER/FILTER - SP SPINPACK
10	1	C23067	SEAL, BAND
11	1	C23069-03	SCREEN, WOVEN WIRE - FILTER
12	1	C23069-02	SCREEN, WOVEN WIRE - FILTER
13	1	C23068-01	SCREEN, WOVEN WIRE - FILTER
14	16	KXXX-1	NUT, HEX - M6
15	1	SPINPACK input SPUNBOND SPINPACK INPUT	



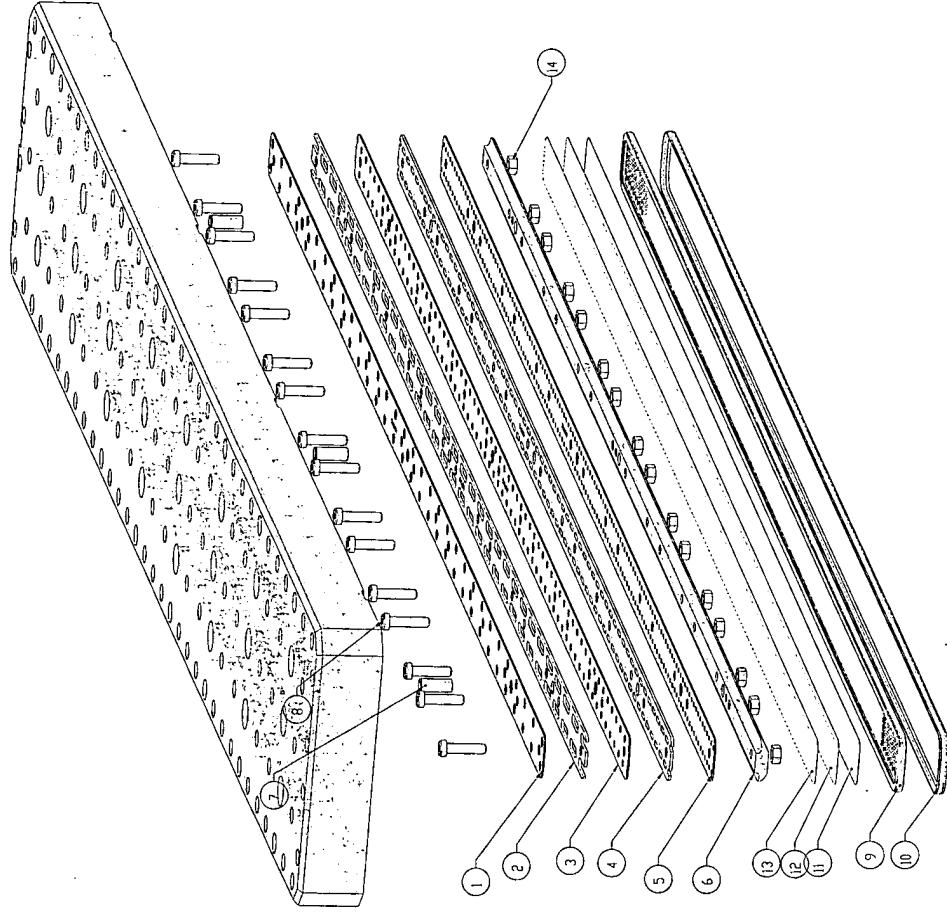
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D23043		D23043	
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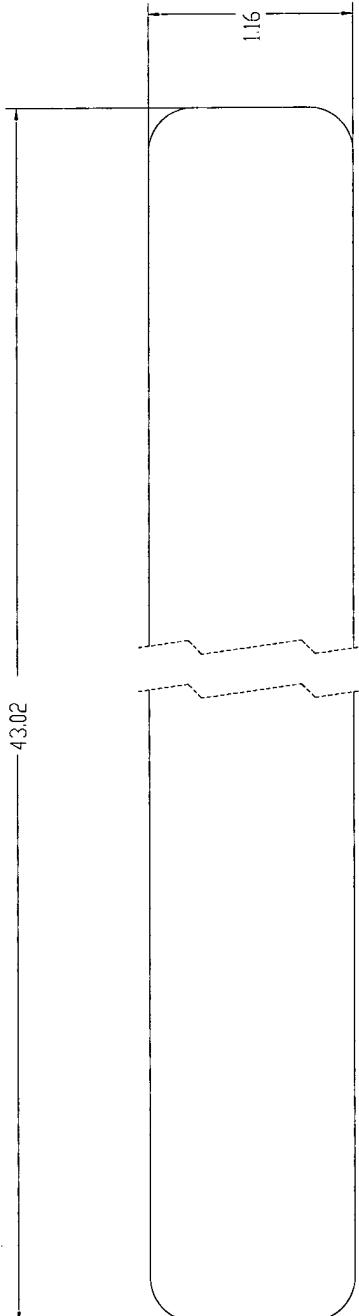
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ITEM NO.	QTY.	PART NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	1	D23046	PLATE, DIST. - LEVEL 3
2	1	D23047	PLATE, DIST. - LEVEL 4
3	1	D23048	PLATE, DIST. - LEVEL 5
4	1	D23049	PLATE, DIST. - LEVEL 6
5	1	D23050	PLATE, DIST. - LEVEL 7
6	1	D23051	PLATE, DIST. - SHEET FORMING
7	3	1/4WEL PIN	PIN, DOME, 8MM, 20MM PULL, DUL
8	16	15702	SERW. SHES. MAXI X 25MM LP
9	1	C23042	PLATE, BREAKER/FLITER - SB SPINPACK
10	1	C23067	SEAL, BAND
11	1	C23068-03	SCREEN, WOVEN WIRE - FILTER
12	1	C23068-02	SCREEN, WOVEN WIRE - FILTER
13	1	C23068-01	SCREEN, WOVEN WIRE - FILTER
14	16	KXXK-1	NUT, HEX - M6
15	1		spinpack import SPINPACK import



D23043		D23043	
Nordson		Nordson Corporation 10000 N. 10th Street Milwaukee, WI 53241-4612 800-343-2222 Fax: 414-355-2515	
FLOW EQUALIZER ASSEMBLY		SPINPACK SPINPACK	
1		DO NOT SCALE USE DIMENSIONS ONLY	
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43.02



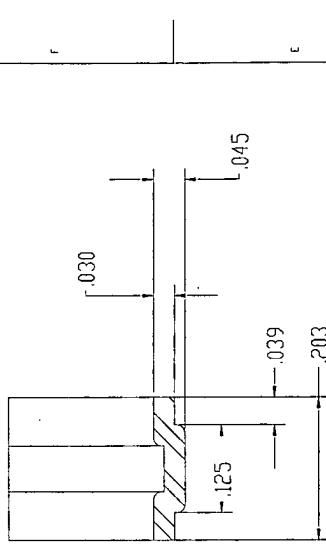
PART NUMBER
C23068-01
C23068-02
C23068-03

MATERIAL
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150 X 150 - .0025 DIA WIRE - 304 SST
80 X 80 - .0070 DIA WIRE - 304 SST

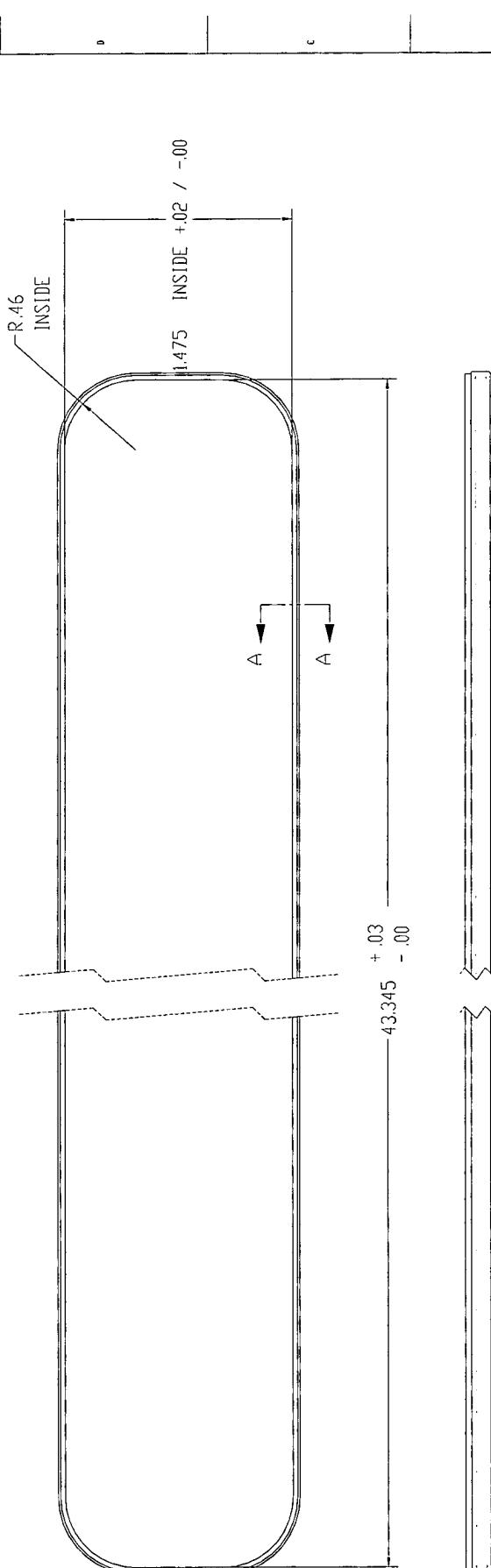
C23068		ITEM PART NO																				
		Nordson Corporation Filter Systems 12 Nordson Drive Buford, Georgia 30034-6672 (770) 216-5500 Fax (770) 216-1517																				
		SCREEN, WOVEN WIRE - FILTER																				
DO NOT SCALE: USE DIMENSIONS ONLY																						
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NOTES 1) MATERIAL: 3004 ALUMINUM

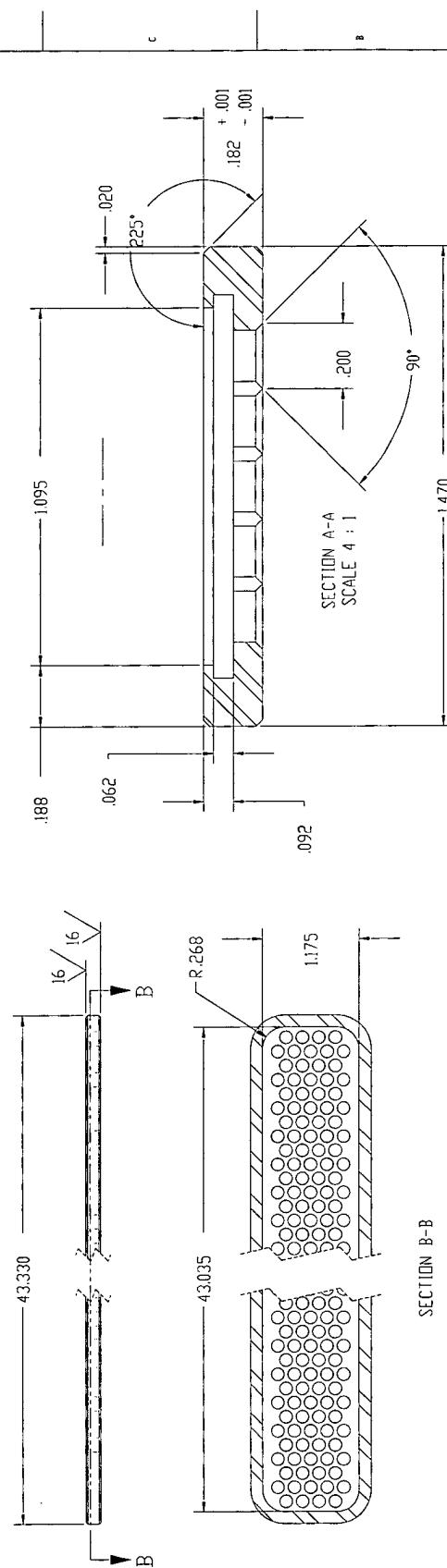
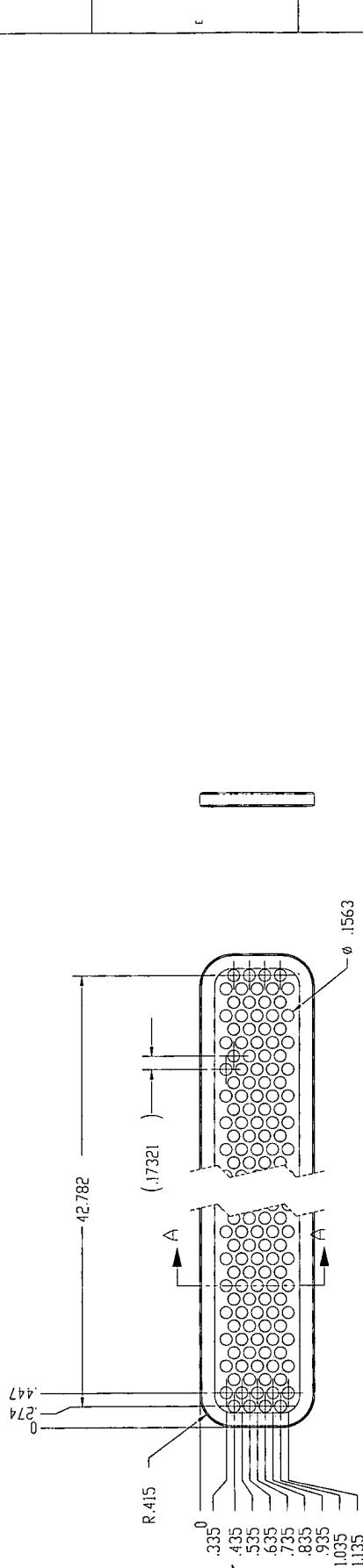
NOTES 11) MATERIAL: 3004 ALUMINUM



SECTION A-A
SCALE 1:8



NOTES
1) MATERIAL: 17-4 PH OR 15-5
2) QTY: 3 PER NEXT ASSY



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